

REMARKS

In response to the objection to the drawings, drawing figures 2 and 3 have been corrected to be clearly legible and comprehensible and an annotated and a replacement drawing sheet in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d) is enclosed as required.

An annotated and substitute specification and abstract are attached. These documents were prepared using the text file available from the US Patent and Trademark Office. The substitute specification corrects idiomatical and grammatical errors throughout the application. The substitute specification obviates the objection to the specification. It is requested that the substitute specification be entered in the case.

Claims were objected to. In addition, claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraph. It appears that the source of the objections and rejections was due to an unfamiliarity with US patent practice. In response, all claims have been canceled and new claims 26-33 have been added. New claims 26-33 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraph and overcome the object.

Claims were rejected as being obvious over a combination of US Patent 6,599,259 to Muir, US Patent 5,457,480 to White, and US Patent 6,100,874 to Schena. All claims have been canceled due to formal rejections. New claims 26-33 have been added which are drawn to similar subject matter. The claims 26-33 are not obvious over any combination of Muir, White, and Schena.

Claims 1-25 have been canceled. Claims 26-33 have been added. The invention now includes claims 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33.

Claim 26 highlights the features of the massage mouse described in the application. In particular, a light sensor system is used which is able to turn on or off the massage mechanism when the hand of the user grabs the mouse or lets the mouse go, as explained in paragraph [0033] on page 8. It also highlights the design of the mouse as the removable cover, which when properly assembled to the housing, hides

the massage mechanism. Paragraph [0036] explains that the cover enables the user to disable the massage mechanism and that the cover can have various shapes providing a conformable grip.

Claim 27 recites the adjustable level feature of the mouse's massage mechanism. Paragraph [0033] accompanied with the schematic of Figure 11 explains how an adjustable resistance supplies an adjusted electric current to the motor of the massage mechanism through a Darlington transistor and switch.

Claim 28 focuses on the massage mechanism itself of the mouse. Paragraphs [0032] and [0034] as well as Figure 10 describe how the massage buttons using biased springs may have a reciprocating movement through the holes designed in the massage region when the incline cylinder rotates.

Claim 29 recites the position of the light sensor in the massage mechanism. Paragraph [0033] and Figure 2 explain how the light detect system works through a light operable window under the user's hand.

Claim 30 highlights the fixation system of the massage cover over the mouse housing. Figures 5F and 5H particularly illustrate how the portion of the cover projects under the mouse to insure a proper assembling of the massage cover to the housing.

Claim 31 recites the housing has a contour top design and the cover has a contour design which allows to fit perfectly the top housing. See particularly Figures 6A-6G.

Claim 32 focuses on the Double Pole, Double Throw (DPDT) switch that allows the user to reverse a direction of rotation of the electric motor used in the massage mechanism.

Claim 33 recites the Darlington transistor (IC2 in Figure 11), used as a current multiplier, which enables the motor of the massage mechanism to be supplied with enough current from the source.

Claim 26 requires a light sensor positioned within said housing to sense the presence or absence of a user's hand or said cover. As noted in claim 29, the light sensor is in the center of the massage mechanism. In contrast, Muir does not show a

light sensor for activating a massage mechanism. Muir describes a mouse wherein the massaging element can be turned on or off manually by activation of switch 12 or by a computer system via a microcontroller detecting when the input device is used (see column 4, lines 24-30). The claimed invention eliminates the need for activating a switch. Furthermore, the claimed invention overcomes the drawback of having the massage feature turned off if the user is simply resting his or her hand on the mouse and not moving it. Schena does not make up for the deficiencies of Muir. The mouse shown by Sheena as well as by White does not provide massage. In Schena, the mouse includes a safety optical switch which is operated by sensing ambient light through a surface of the housing (see column 29, lines 19-26. Schena contemplates a dead man's switch for safe operation of actuators 64. This is different from being able to turn on and off a massage feature when a person's hand is present. In White, the mouse hood, when open, allows activation of the keys for numerical entry through a sensor. White provides no optical mechanism to turn on and off a desired feature. For at least this reason, claim 26 and its dependent claims would not be obvious over a combination of Muir, White and Schena.

Muir does not describe a mouse having a detachable and removable massage cover as required in claim 26. This deficiency is not satisfied by White as White's hood is not covering a massage mechanism but a numerical keypad device which does not perform the same functions as massaging elements. White's hood may be detachable when rotated approximately 90° (see column 6, lines 18-22) but it is hingedly attached to the device between the forward and the rearward portions thereof (see Figures 2A and 2B). Furthermore, when White's hood is open, the user needs to rotate it 180° to have access to the conventional front buttons of the mouse. With a detachable and removable cover, as required in claim 26, the user can access the front buttons. Schena's mouse provides a force feedback to the user's hand instead of a massage system. Schena's mouse does not have a detachable and removable cover. For at least this additional reason, the claims are not obvious over a combination of Muir, White and Schena.

With respect to claim 30, the hood mouse described by White does not show a

portion projecting under the housing to be used as clip. In addition, with respect to claim 31, White's hood is a flat shell. Furthermore, White's hood covers only the numerical keypad (see Figures 2A and 2B) and does not cover the housing sides or top.

With respect to claim 32, a Double Pole, Double Throw (DPDT) switch is not taught either by Muir, White or Schena.

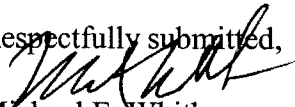
In claim 33, the application describes a Darlington transistor to amplify the current needed to supply the electric motor of the massage mechanism. No similar electric part is found in Muir's described mouse. Muir describes an electric motor 22 (see column 3, lines 22–24 and Figure 3A). Schena shows electromagnetic voice coil actuators used to provide forces to the user object (column 13, lines 26 and seq.). In Schena, a current is flowed through coil to cause interaction with a magnetic field from magnets to magnet assembly and inducing magnetic forces that rotate portion of base member (see column 14, lines 51 and seq., and Figure 4a).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,


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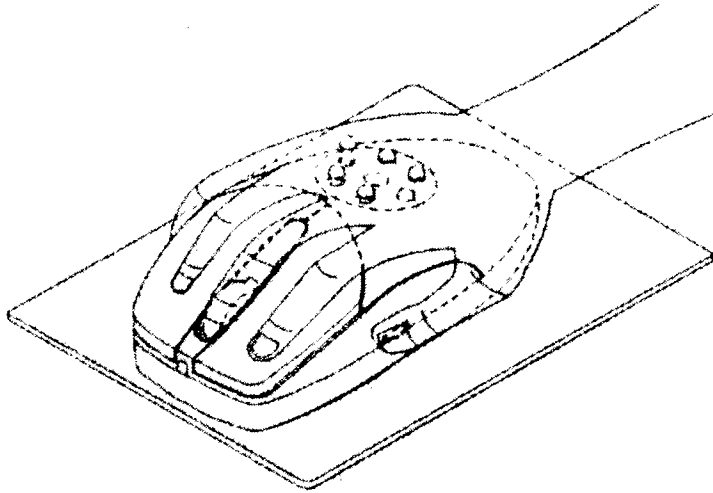


FIG.1

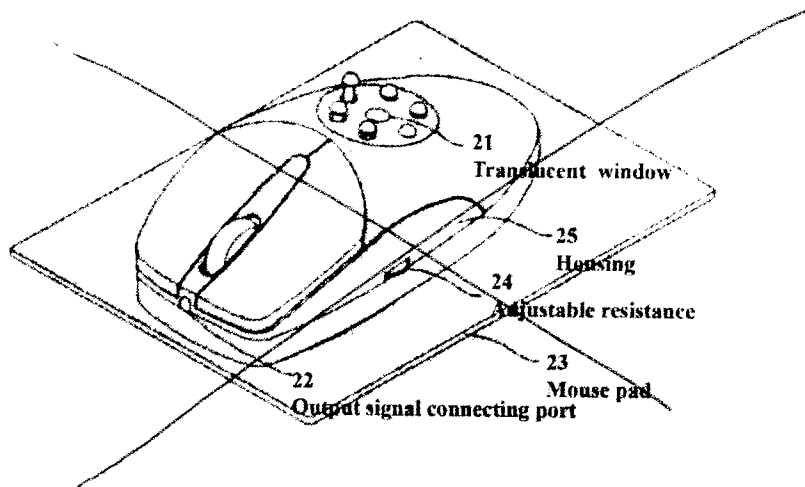


FIG.2

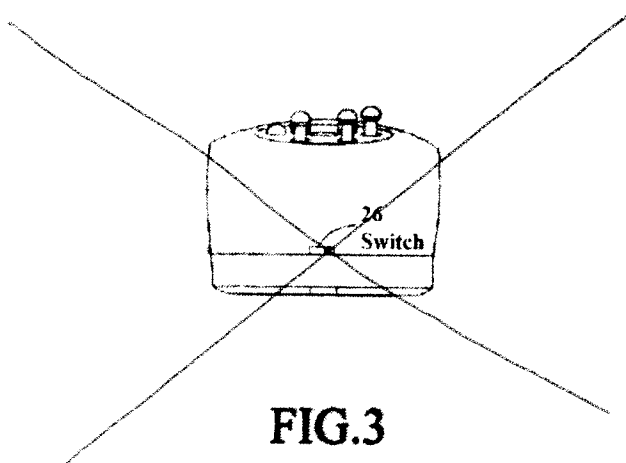


FIG.3